

COUNTRY Indochina/Burma/France/Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Vietnamese "Overseas Committees"

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1. Since May 1949 the general policy of the Ho Chi Minh Government has been to limit the activities of official Viet Nam delegations abroad and to concentrate activities in "Overseas Committees" (Uy Ban Hai Ngoai). The principal committee is in Paris with two branch committees in Prague and in Rangoon. The Rangoon committee serves also as a liaison between Paris and Viet Nam.
2. The "Overseas Committee" is the directing staff of all Vietnamese organizations abroad (Vietnamese Women, Workers, Students, cultural groups, etc.). It serves as liaison between the overseas branches of these organizations and the main organization in Viet Nam. It serves as liaison between the Vietnamese organizations and various world organizations such as the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the World Federation of Trade Unions, Womens' International Democratic Federation, etc.
3. The Viet Minh Tong Bo through means of the "Overseas Committee" chooses the various Vietnamese representatives at international meetings. The "Overseas Committee" aids in the handling of expenses of the delegates, proper travel papers, etc.
4. Bangkok was formerly the seat of one of the principal "Overseas Committees," but in May 1949 it was replaced by Rangoon. The secretary of the "Overseas Committee" in Rangoon is Nguyen Van Thanh.* He is also secretary of the Liaison committee of the Vietnamese Students organization. Tran Minh is secretary of the Rangoon liaison committee of the Vietnamese Labor organization. Mme. Tran Van Luan, wife of the head of the official Ho Government delegation in Rangoon, is secretary of the liaison committee of Vietnamese Women's organization.
5. Liaison between the Vietnamese "Overseas Committee" and the directing committees of the various world organizations (WFDY, WFTU, WIDF etc.) is very important. The "Overseas Committees" are equipped to take over almost all the responsibilities of the official government delegations and render them less important.** This liaison gives more authority to the Vietnamese organizations that are members of the various international organizations. In the future if a Vietnamese delegate to an international meeting or representative abroad has difficulties with some government, the international organization

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concerned (WFTU, WFDY, etc.) will probably protest rather than the official Viet Nam Delegations abroad.***

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reported the departure of Thanh for Rangoon on 28 May 1949. 25X1A

25X1A ** [REDACTED] Comment. This may be partial explanation of the closing of the Ho Chi Minh Government delegation in Paris.

25X1A *** [REDACTED] Comment. Although the "Overseas Committee" has a national character, it is directed by Communists and serves profitably as a means of liaison for the Communists.

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